Dear colleagues and friends,

We have started the year by publishing a letter in The Lancet Psychiatry about the Future of Psychiatry, sharing the views from early career psychiatrists across the world on this future and on the role that psychiatrists will need to play. There is no future without the future psychiatrists. We invite you to read our article here: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(17)30466-2/fulltext

Throughout this time we have been working closely with our Section members and were present at the end of last year at a Conference superbly organized by our colleagues in Tunisia, as well as in the outstanding WPA Congress in Melbourne.

For the WPA in Mexico in September this year, we expect several other scientific and social activities and we are glad that there are fellowships to support financially the travel and accommodation for early career psychiatrists. Surely this will be another inspiring event and a unique opportunity for early career psychiatrists to meet. We encourage all of you to apply to these great opportunities!

Best wishes,

Mariana Pinto da Costa

Update from editor

By Tando AS Melapi, Editor. With special contribution by Irena Rojnic Palavra from Zagreb, Croatia.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce this first publication of our 2018 newsletter. Let me thank the editorial team, Mariana Paim Santos and Paul Fung for their dedication and assistance in putting this newsletter together, for their commendable and excellent work. Thanks also go to the ECP section board members for their advice, encouragement and assistance. We live and learn from great people like you. A special mention to our chair, Mariana Pinto Da Costa, who has been providing great leadership, motivation and guidance to us all.

I want to thank all those who contributed with articles that are included in this newsletter. While working on them, one is taken on a journey through various styles of rather creative writing to different parts of the world. I can almost see through the eye of imagination the various contexts, challenges and opportunities in which psychiatry is practiced. Common themes in these stories of challenges among ECPs of various cultures are the shared goals and enthusiasm with which we all want to positively contribute to the positive stories of human beings overcoming challenges and the shared resilience of working towards excellence and to end human suffering despite all challenges. Although some of you may not know many other ECPs globally yet, I hope you will read these stories, and relate to them personally and be encouraged.
On that note, I encourage everyone of you who comes across this newsletter to share it as widely as possible with ECP colleagues in their region, institution, professional societies and various social media platforms. More importantly, I encourage you to join the WPA ECP section and share in many other ECP activities that are happening around the globe. Application details are available on our website http://www.wpanet.org/detail.php?section_id=11&content_id=1703 You can also contact us at wpa.ecp.section@gmail.com or contact your zonal representative. You can also follow us on facebook https://www.facebook.com/wpaecpssection/ and twitter (@ecps_wpa).

Lastly, let us remind you of the 18th World Congress of Psychiatry coming up in September in Mexico City. Although this is still far away, there are two important deadlines coming up soon. Firstly, the abstract submission deadline is on the 23rd of April 2018. Make sure you do not miss the opportunity to present at this congress. Secondly, the congress is offering some fantastic fellowships specifically for ECPs. Please visit the website https://wcp-congress.com/2018/abstracts-proposals/fellowships#.WrUaS0xuLIV for further details.

Once you read right to the end, you will find our email address. We look forward to your comments and more article submissions for the next publication. Enkosi. Thank you.

**North America**

“THE SEX TALK” VS “MANY CONVERSATION”: EMERGING NEEDS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN EL SALVADOR.

By Duran Avendaño, Xenia Margarita; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Hospital Nacional de Niños Benjamin Bloom, HNNBB. Member of Salvadorian Psychiatry Association; ASP. Member of Mexican Child Psychiatry Association, AMPI.

I asked my closest friends: “Did your parents talk to you about sexuality?” I found many answers. Some told me “my father just gave me a condom and told me - be a man”; “my mother took me to a psychologist and the psychologist explained it to me”; “in the school, with friends”. Most of them told me “my parents never talked about it with me”. This caught my attention and made me concerned and became more so in 2014 when I came to work in a public pediatric hospital. As a child and adolescent psychiatrist, I saw at least three children per week who displayed socially unacceptable sexual behaviors; some of them could have been prevented by their parents if they had just talked about sexuality at the correct time.

El Salvador is a low-income country with many taboos, prejudices and fears about sexuality. Mentioning sexuality may be considered sinful. Teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse of preschool children, exposure to pornography from a very young age and early sexual relations are among many challenges that are faced by children in El Salvador. Because of these problems, I started a
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project call “Sexualidad en el Hogar” in August 2017; it means “Sexuality at home”. It is a simple and easy workshop about basic concepts for parents. I invited some colleagues and they were very helpful. So far, we have educated more than 200 parents. The main idea is to encourage parents to talk several times with their sons, from early childhood until adolescence, about sexuality. We start by saying “Everybody talks about it; their friends, teachers, TV, music, internet. Why don’t you?”. The idea is to give parents confidence and basic knowledge to educate their kids. We encourage them to start from a young age to speak about specific, age-appropriate subjects with their children. These subjects included proper names of genitals; that nobody should touch them; not to keep secrets about sexuality involving strangers or even family; to talk about boyfriend and girlfriend relationships; sexual intercourse; masturbation; pornography; “sexting” and age limits and boundaries. These basic, but important talks, about sexuality need to occur continuously instead of limiting them to “one-off” conversations of “the sex talk”. Transforming this theme in a series of “many conversations”, based in sincerity and trust, without any fear from both parents and children. This project is only starting and needs to improve gradually. Managing religious conflicts, cultural taboos, low schooling and illiteracy are among many challenges we encounter. We aim to break the paradigm through continuous education. It is making a difference that we can only be glad and proud of.

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Western Europe

THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PSYCHIATRIC TRAINEES (EFPT) – SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PSYCHIATRY FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

By Howard Ryland (EFPT President), Ekin Sonmez (EFPT Past President), Victor Pereira Sanchez (EFPT MENTA Working Group Chair), David de Freitas Pereira (EFPT IT Secretary)

EFPT has a long and illustrious history, as one of the oldest and largest international organisations of early career physicians in the world. EFPT has participated at the 26th EPA Congress in Nice, with several presentations and activities, including a panel discussion on "International Trainee-Led Research Projects" and a workshop on "Improving Psychiatric Training: In Home Countries and in Europe", and a poster on psychotherapy training in Europe. Our colleagues from France arranged an EFPT dinner, which has already become a tradition. You can check out the pictures, videos and more on Twitter #EFPTatEPA!

The EFPT Maintaining and Establishing a National Trainee’s Association (MENTA) Working Group aims to give support and expertise to local trainees to create national associations of psychiatric trainees (NTAs) in their home countries, as well as to keep the existing associations strong and active at national and international levels. The main actions of MENTA include the promotion of new NTAs in those European countries which have none and preparing them for full integration within EFPT. Recently, MENTA has also been promoting the establishment of NTAs outside Europe, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as the development of a worldwide network of trainees.

EFPT collaborates widely with a range of other international organisations, to project the voice of trainees into the policy sphere. A prime example of this is our involvement with the Task Force for Education in European Psychiatry (TFEEP). This initiative brings together several key players, including UEMS Section of Psychiatry, EPA, WHO Europe and EFPT, to consider how postgraduate training in
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Psychiatry could be enhanced by our coordinated efforts.

The highlight of each year’s activities is the EFPT Forum, which brings delegates of our NTA members face to face. This allows us to agree on an action plan for the upcoming year, admit new countries as members and strengthen the incredible network that is EFPT. This year the Forum will take place in Bristol in the UK, with the motto of ‘Thinking differently about mind and brain’. There will be visits to local psychiatric services, a scientific day focusing on neuroscience and an International Reception, where trainees share their national culture with fellow delegates.

EFPT offers a lot of opportunities to trainees who wish to have an international experience. NTAs, working groups, EFPT Forum and Exchange have become part of our common vocabulary. Nevertheless, they remain mysterious for a lot of trainees around Europe, who are not aware of the initiatives led by trainees for trainees at EFPT. Therefore, we have decided to improve EFPT’s communication strategy by doing a total refurbishment of our website. With this major face lift, we hope to boost our visibility and encourage more trainees to get involved with EFPT. The result will be revealed during the EFPT Forum Bristol 2018! To find out more about our work, please visit our website www.efpt.eu.

“PSYQUÊ?” – LEARNING PSYCHIATRY THROUGH PLAY

Carina Bragança Rodrigues1,3; Gustavo França1,4; João Borges Ferreira1,5; Lília Meireles1,4; Nuno Carrilho2,5

1 Psychiatry Resident; 2 Psychiatrist 3 Unidade Local de Saúde do Nordeste, Portugal; 4 Hospital Magalhães Lemos, Portugal; 5 Centro Hospitalar do Baixo Vouga, Portugal

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The origin of medicine gets lost in the history of humanity, but its fundamental knowledge has been passed through the oral tradition ever since. Along with the evolution of science, the advent of medical books and, more recently, of scientific papers, has allowed the global diffusion of information and the act of learning to become essentially peer-led. Also, scientific gatherings play a leading role, allowing doctors to discuss their current practice and new ideas in both formal symposia or informal talks.

As psychiatry residents, this gap between strictly formal and informal events has led us to imagine a new method of learning in which residents could test, share and acquire knowledge in a semi-formal ludic atmosphere. Our main aim was to complement the existing unidirectional or individual ways of learning the fundamentals of our specialty. In 2016, this desire gave birth to a psychiatry board game aimed at residents. We named it “Psyquê?” honouring the Greek allegory of the human soul, or mind. The game format was chosen due to the importance of group play in the neuroplastic mechanisms of learning and
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memory and our understanding of learning as a social phenomenon.

The “Psyqué?” game is composed of an independent board, in which players move a figurine, and a set of questions assigned to six broad areas of psychiatry: Psychopathology, Major Syndromes, Psychopharmacology, History of Psychiatry and Limits of Psychiatry. Each team throws the dice to move the figurine into a new house and to answer a question with four possible options. If correct, the team proceeds, if wrong it loses its turn. According to the house colour, an electronic system randomly chooses a question belonging to one of the six areas. The team that correctly answers most of the questions of special houses wins.

The game includes three levels of difficulty: level one, in which only the first and second year residents are allowed to play; level two, open to all residents; and level three, which allows the participation of specialists. This way, we assure that every team has younger residents playing with more experienced peers.

So far, “Psyqué?” has been played at two major events in Portugal: “iPsiquiatria”, an introductory course aimed at first-year residents, by Minho University, and at the 2018 Portuguese Congress of Psychiatry.

We believe the relaxed atmosphere and the motivational aspects related to the act of playing contribute to learning more efficiently, facilitating discussion through a “peer-learning” method. The data collected from previous editions will help us to understand the pattern of knowledge held by residents and to create new answers to address psychiatry education in the future.

We intend to continue this work, presenting “Psyqué?” at future psychiatry meetings and possibly creating a different set of questions aimed at medical students and family medicine residents.

INTERVIEW BY EKINS SONMEZ TO GAIA SAMPOGNA

Gaia Sampogna, an early career psychiatrist from Italy and a member of the ECP association in Italy “SIP Giovani” has received the Best Publication Award of EPA this year. On behalf of the EFPT Board, Past President Ekin Sönmez conducted an interview with her on challenges and rewards of doing research as an ECP.

Ekin Sönmez: Gaia, congratulations for receiving the "Best Publication in European Psychiatry Award" of EPA, as an early career psychiatrist, in 2018. Could you introduce yourself and your work that was awarded?

Gaia Sampogna: Dear Ekin, thank you. I am an early career psychiatrist and a PhD student working at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” in Naples. In my experience, I benefited a lot from my mentors, the most important one being Professor M. Maj. I am devoting myself to research in social psychiatry, with a particular interest on stigma and discrimination against people with severe mental disorders. I have been a visiting researcher at the Health Services and Population Research Department at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience of the King’s College London, working under the supervision of Professor Sir G. Thornicroft and Dr. Claire Henderson. I have had the opportunity to be involved in the evaluation of the efficacy of the Time to Change anti-stigma campaign. During such experience, I have deepened my knowledge in the field of challenging stigma and
I have improved my skills in writing scientific papers and in performing statistical analyses. The paper entitled “The impact of social marketing campaigns on reducing mental health stigma: Results from the 2009–2014 Time to Change programme” which has been awarded as “Best paper published in 2017 in European Psychiatry” is the result of a collaborative work implemented in London, under the guidance of Dr. Claire Henderson.

ES: Did you encounter any challenge as an early career psychiatrist while leading the publication?

GS: Writing a scientific paper is a challenging activity for an early career psychiatrist. A lot of skills are needed: defining a new research question; developing an adequate plan for statistical analysis; writing the findings in a coherent and “scientific” language; preparing the manuscript for submission. It is a very time-consuming activity, that sometimes spreads out the night and the weekends. When you are ready to submit the paper, then you will have to face the most challenging activity: overcoming successfully the peer-review process.

ES: What would you recommend to other ECPs who are conducting research or motivated to do so?

GS: First of all, it is mandatory to read a lot of papers, handbooks and manuals related to the specific topic of your research. Moreover, research is a challenging activity, you must be able to continue and to go on even if some obstacles or difficulties arise during research activities. Moreover, you will have always to learn something new, to be updated with recent findings, to check regularly the availability of new sources of funding and so on. It is an endless job!

ES: What impact in your opinion do ECP organisations have on research career of ECPs? How can this be improved?

GS: Being part of a scientific association is extremely important, since you can share your professional difficulties and problems with other colleagues. For junior doctors being part of ECP organization can be inspiring, can give the opportunity to improve training curricula and update professional knowledge. Moreover, being part of an ECP organization can be helpful for promoting new research projects and for creating a research network where colleagues with different backgrounds can collaborate – each with their specific skills – in order to improve the research or the project proposal.

Eastern Europe

UPDATES ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIAN ECP COUNCIL

by Prof. Petrova N.N.¹, Fedotov Ilya², Chumakov Egor¹, Osadshiy Yuri³, Kasyanov Evgeny⁴, Dorofeikova Maria⁴

¹ Department of Psychiatry and Addictions, Saint-Petersburg State University, ² Psychiatry Department, Ryazan State Medical University, President of Russian ECP Council, ³ Volgograd branch of Russian ECP Council, ⁴ Bekhterev National Medical Research Psychiatry and Neurology Center, Saint-Petersburg

The Section of Russian ECP Council on web-resources recently organized and conducted a series of webinars on fundamental neuroscience and translational psychiatry, aimed at young scientists and mental health professionals. In November-December 2017, nine webinars were held, conducted not only by professors and honored scientists, but also by young scientists. The following problems were highlighted: Transcranial magnetic stimulation, Biological markers of schizophrenia, Pharmacogenetics in psychiatry; Immunological and psychophysiological patterns in addictions; Problems of interrelation between neurobiology and clinical diagnosis; Hormonal factors in mental disorders; Neuroimaging in
clinical psychophysiology; Psychiatry and philosophy of consciousness; and Electro-convulsive therapy (ECT). Participation in all webinars was free. In total, the webinars were attended by over 400 participants. From February to April 2018, we plan to hold a series of webinars on psychotherapy and rehabilitation.

Volgograd branch of the Early Career Psychiatrists’ Council of Russian Society of Psychiatrists (VB ECPC) received an award at the National Contest named after Prof. Tatyana B. Dmitrieva. This was awarded to VB ECPC for Promotion of Mental Health. VB ECPC Head, Yuri Osadshiy, has done a lot of work since 2016 among mental health professionals, general medicine specialists, the general public and using mass media in the form of lectures, seminars, conferences, popular-science events, exhibitions etc. VB ECPC were awarded in the category “Promotion public awareness of mental illness”.

Also, VB ECPC is a local coordinator of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology seminar which is going to take place in Volgograd (from 23 to 25 March, 2018). The seminar, approved in 2017, will bring together 60 young scientists (psychiatrists, pharmacologists, biologists etc.) from all over Russia, who are interested in neuropsychopharmacology. The ECNP’s international experts at this seminar are Avi Avital (Israel), Carla Torrentt (Spain) and Michael Davidson (Israel). Local experts are Petr Morozov, Nataliya Petrova, Michail Krupicky.

We continue the official translation of World Psychiatry journal into Russian. The last translated issue for 2017 has been edited and will soon be published on the official website of the World Psychiatric Association. We also translate the results of recent fundamental and clinical studies in psychiatry and neuroscience, then every 3 months we publish a free PDF-digest with the latest news from the scientific world of psychiatry. The last digest in December 2017 includes more than 100 pages of translation. For our Russian-speaking colleagues, this is an excellent opportunity to study foreign scientific discoveries.

In December 2017, the theoretical round of the all-Russian contest of the Olympics for students and young scientists in psychiatry and clinical psychology "Mind Games – 2018" was launched again. We invited participants to answer clinical and creative questions. In March, we plan to sum up the results and award the winners with diplomas and travel-grants for participation in conferences.

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**North Africa and Middle east**

14th International Congress on Psychiatry "Innovation in Psychiatric Practice" fellowship

We are pleased to announce the nine winners for the fellowship that Institute of Psychiatry, Ain Shams University have provided for the 14th International Congress of Psychiatry April, 2018 with the theme "Innovation in Psychiatric Practice". The winners are Zuria Idura Abd Mokhtar (Malaysia), Khadija Hasanah Abang Abdullah (Malaysia), Emmy Amalia (Indonesia), Kuppili Pooja (India), Ugalahi Theresa Ocheke (Nigeria), Xenia Margarita (El Salvador), Mirjana Delic (Slovenia), Guida da Ponte (Portugal) and Sagun Ballav Pant (Nepal).
Moreover, the congress committee decided to further support ECPs by reducing the registration fees for those willing to attend. In order to benefit from this reduction, an official letter will be sent by the WPA ECPs section committee with the interested names. We encourage members who are willing to attend to contact us swiftly to have their names included in the letter.

By Fairouz Tawfik, Assistant Lecturer of Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, Ain Shams University. Co-chair Early Career Psychiatrists Section, WPA. Email: fairouz.tawfik8587@gmail.com

**South Africa**

**EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRY IN BOTSWANA**

By: Keneilwe Molebatsi

Mental health remains the least resourced speciality in Botswana despite the government’s efforts to train citizens internationally.

![Figures. Sabrana Psychiatric Hospital and the University of Botswana, Academic wing, Faculty of Medicine](image)

Although the government has recently paid more attention to recruitment and retention of staff, the offers don’t seem to adequately compete with global markets. Currently there are only four psychiatrists employed by Ministry of Health; two based at the country’s only referral psychiatric hospital (picture above) and four at the University of Botswana department of psychiatry (they also see patients in the public sector). There are only two private psychiatrists both based in the capital city: Gaborone. Of the 10 psychiatrists, only two are Botswana and there are only two ECPs.

Since the opening of University of Botswana’s Faculty of Medicine, the country’s first and only medical school, in 2009, residency programs in various fields of medical specialties have been established. Currently, postgraduate training in psychiatry is at advanced development stages. Local postgraduate training in psychiatry is essential in building and retaining specialist psychiatrists; psychiatrists that were financed by government in their training outside Botswana often do not return to Botswana once their training is completed.

While plans are still being finalised to training of psychiatrists locally, the Botswana government continues to provide scholarships to citizens who wish to become psychiatrists, should they get admitted to schools of their choice. Currently, three doctors have taken up the offer, with already training at the University of the Witwatersrand in neighbouring South Africa. The other two are also looking for postgraduate training in Kenya and/or South Africa. Policy and other interventions are needed in order to retain the same on completion of their studies.

Being an ECP in Botswana comes with particular challenges and needs which influence retention. If
these issues can be addressed, Botswana will have a significant cohort of ECPs in the near future. In a poorly resourced setting such as Botswana, an ECP might find themselves spread too thin and not performing to their optimal best. Herein also lies the opportunity of maximal growth during the first few years of one’s career. There is a significant number of international collaborators looking to collaborate which affords an exceptional opportunity for networking, however, one needs to be cognizant of future career aspirations and know when and what to say NO to.

Mentorship and academic/career development. A route needs to be constructed during the early days of one’s career, a mentor therefore is essential for an ECP. Mentoring allows ECPs to access a colleague who can provide advice, direction, knowledge and opportunities, helping in career development and progression.

Also, we don’t learn financial management in medical school and thereby may end up with psychosocial stressors due to mismanagement in the early days of our career with consequent poor delivery in practice. In an academic institution this is not a big challenge as the university accords conference attendance funding per merit. However, it may be difficult for an ECP in government employment due to lack of funds. Lack of human resources also translates to difficulties for an ECP to be given time off to attend conferences. This is a crucial point and needs addressing.

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Asia

Welcome to the 18th International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists

By Dr Moan Thawdar Myo Thant, Junior Psychiatrist - Mental Health Hospital, Yangon. Member – Myanmar Mental Health Society

Dr Kyi Min Tun, Assistant Lecturer - Department of Mental Health, University of Medicine 1, Yangon. Member – Myanmar Mental Health Society

Dear colleagues, on behalf of Myanmar Mental Health Society, we are happy to invite you all to the 18th International Congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP) and the 5th Myanmar Mental Health Conference which will be held on 26th-28th October 2018 in Yangon, Myanmar. The theme of the congress will be: “Mental Health Development in the Pacific Rim: Future Challenges and Solutions”. The Pacific Rim is a region of great diversity. Member countries are diverse in culture, socio-economic development, health systems and set up of general health and mental health services. The Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists (PRCP) was founded in 1980 aiming to promote the professional collaboration between countries of Asia Pacific Region in terms of psychiatry and mental health education, researches and services. The host country, Myanmar, is situated in Southeast Asia surrounded by China, India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand. It is the second largest country in the Southeast Asian region with a population of around 52 million. Majority of the population are Buddhists. Generosity and friendliness are the trademarks of Myanmar people. Yangon is the former capital city, and the most important commercial centre of Myanmar. It is a dazzling city with a mixture of colonial and modern architectures. Shwe Dagon Pagoda which is the most sacred Buddhist site for Myanmar people is situated 15-minute drive away from the venue hotel, Sedona.
We are excited to develop professional and social networking, and share experiences with colleagues all around the world who will be attending the PRCP congress. You will hear fascinating keynote addresses by renowned professors such as Prof. Norman Sartorius, Prof. Helen Herrman, Prof. Cesar A. Alfonso, Prof. Schaffer and Dr. Yongyud Wongpiromsarn. There will be a program for young psychiatrists by Prof Norman Sartorius. Prof Cesar A. Alfonso from Columbia University Medical Center will chair a workshop related to psychodynamic psychotherapy in psychiatric practice. Abstract submissions for oral and poster presentation are open for any psychiatric and mental health professionals as well as trainees. Travel awards will be offered to the five best poster presenters and registration fees for the award winners will be waived. Abstract submission deadline is 30th June 2018. Registration fees vary according to the World Bank’s country category. Special registration rate for early birds is until 31st July 2018. For more detail information, please visit to www.prcp2018.org.

Warmly welcome to Myanmar and we are looking forward to seeing you all in October 2018.

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